IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Francis VANDERBIST, et al.

Application No. 09/424,247

Filed: November 30, 1999

Confirmation No. 7736

Group Art Unit: 1615

Examiner: BERKO, RETFORD O

For: DRY POWDER INHALER EXCIPIENT, PROCESS FOR ITS PREPARATION AND PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITION CONTAINING IT

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the time for response to the Official Action dated December 3, 2003 for two months from March 3, 2004 to May 3, 2004.

A credit card authorization form to cover the cost of the extension is attached. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account No.: 07-1337.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP

William E. Beaumont Registration No. 30,996

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310 Alexandria, Virginia 22314 Telephone: (703) 684-1111 Facsimile: (703) 518-5499 DATE: April 27, 2004

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